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CAGERS MEET ALUMNI - OCTOBER 27

The Concordia Stingers Varsity basketball teams will open the 1978-79 season Friday, when they play their Alumni teams. The women's team will start the evening off with an alumni contest at 7 p.m. with the men's game slated for 9 p.m.

The men's alumni team will boast some of the best players ever to compete in Canada, including four former All-Canadians, John McAuliffe (Loyola '70), Tom Brethel (Sir George '72, '74) Mike Moore (Sir George '75) and Ron Puskarich (Concordia '76). They will be joined by Q.U.A.A. All-Stars John Dore, Mike Hickey, Terry O'Brien, as well as Pete Hargrove, Greg Gill, Randy Phillips, Gary Miller and Larry Tomalson.

Head Coach, Doug Daigneault feels this year's edition of the varsity men's basketball team has the potential to be one of his strongest ever. And Daigneault's optimism is based in part on an impressive group of Montreal rookies, including three West Island players, Steve Mann and Lloyd Pullen of Pointe Claire and Steve Ruiter of Dorval. Mann played two years at John Abbott under coach Mike Dawson while Pullen spent three years at the University of Prince Edward Island. Ruiter, a graduate of Dorval High School played one year for the University of New Brunswick.

Both Pullen and Ruiter played for the Quebec Provincial teams and are expected to help the Stingers inside game. Lloyd is a strong intelligent player whose experience should aid the young Stingers.

Other Montreal area players include Harley Lawrence of Dawson, Keith Coffin and Peter Fox of Vanier and Mike Ramsey of Champlain, also Tim Bush a native of Val David. Returning veterans include last year's M.V.P. Leon Bynoe and Rich Hagens. Rookies Simeon Mars, Hayton Morrison and Pete McKenna join transfers Walter Harrigan and Joe McGuire to round out the Concordia roster.

The women's alumnae will include past members of Loyola, Sir George and Concordia, as well as past members of the Concordia Summer Basketball league. Invited players include All-Canadian Liz Silcott, league All-Stars Elaine Betchinski and Paddie Chiara, as well as former National team member Colleen Dufresne.

The Stingers, second place finishers in the Q.U.A.A. last season, have strengthened themselves considerably this year, with four new faces on the ten player roster and a heavy accent of West Island Players. Linda MacPherson and Inger Breida, former John Abbott players who transferred this summer from Bishop's University, have been the most impressive players in the Stingers' pre-season work outs.

"Linda is a smart player whose court sense should aid some of the younger players," Hickey commented recently. "Inger has been the biggest surprise for us so far. She is an excellent offensive player with good moves to the baskets and is always hustling."

MacPherson and Breida join two other former John Abbott stars, forwards Cheryl Petersen and Debbie Larsen. Petersen, the league's second leading scorer has picked up where she left off last season, leading the Stingers offensively in pre-season practices. Larsen, who missed the entire 1977-78 season due to knee surgery has completely recovered and appears to have won a starting berth.

Returning veterans include second-team All-Star Gay Owens, Joyce Tarbet, Barbara McGuinness and Helen Malacrida. Rose Anne Darwent from Dawson and Joanne Bourque round out the present Stinger roster. Leslie Fortier, another Abbott alumna is expected to join the team after Christmas.